

Arıdarum montanum Ridley.

SOME BORNEAN AROIDEÆ.

By H. N. RIDLEY, C.M.G., F.R.S.

(PLATE 527.)

Aridarum, nov. gen.

Planta pusilla herbacea, foliis pluribus linearibus angustis coriaceis enervibus, marginibus et costa incrassatis. Scapus apud folia exortus brevior, gracilis. Spatha parva cylindrica rostrata. Spadix brevior cylindrica. Flores feminei circiter 16 ad basin, pistillis subglobosis, oblongis, stigmatibus discoideis; ovulis pluribus orthotropis. Flores masculi, stamina oblonga marginibus undulatis apicibus complanatis, canaliculatis. Flores steriles duo ad latera staminum adnati; basi breviter triangulares, apice longo setiformi.

Aridarum montanum, species unica. Herba parva, radicibus crassiusculis lanuginosis. Folia plura linearia acuminata basi angustata, coriacea, marginibus et costa incrassata, enervia, 12 cm. longa 4 mm. lata. Scapus gracilis bracteis 6 linearibus acuminatis papyraceis rufo-brunneis 3 cm. longis 3 mm. latis. Pedunculus 8 cm. longus. Spatha cylindrica abrupte rostrata 16 mm. longa. Spadix cylindrica obtusa brevior. Flores feminei ad 16, dissiti oblongo-subglobosi, stigmatibus discoideis aurantiacis medio depresso. Flores masculi elongato-oblongi, apice lato margine undulato,? canalicula in medio. Flores steriles basibus triangularibus apicibus setiformibus.

Sarawak, Santubong, C. J. Brooks.

This very remarkable little plant, of which there is only a single specimen in the collection, is allied to the section Chamæcladon of Homalomena. It differs generically from this genus in the linear coriaceous leaves, and in the peculiar structure of the male flowers. The stamens are longitudinally oblong, and have a rather deep longitudinal groove in the centre. From the sides of each stamen rises what is presumably a sterile flower, consisting of a minute triangular portion ending in a slender setiform process, which, in the specimen, lies horizontally over the top of the stamen. These processes are about half as long as the stamen. The base of this body is adnate to the lower part of the stamen. The occurrence of sterile flowers usually club-shaped is not infrequent in Homalomena, but they are almost invariably lateral to or among the female flowers, and never adnate to the male flowers nor of this peculiar shape. The inner face of the spathe and the stamens are sprinkled with small red purple dots apparently glandular.

The plant is obviously xerophytic, which is very unusual in the section to which it belongs. The mountain Santubong, on which it occurs, is at the apex distinctly xerophytic, and has at some period clearly been an outlying island. It has been visited by Beccari and several other botanists, but no one seems to have

obtained this little Aroid previously.

I am indebted to Mr. N. E. Brown for assistance in working out the structure of this plant.

Arisema microspadix Engler, Jahrb. xxxvii. 112.

Sarawak, C. J. Brooks.

This plant was described from specimens collected in Java by Zollinger, and is an addition to the flora of Borneo.

PIPTOSPATHA ELONGATA N. E. Br. This Bornean plant was described by Engler (Bot. Jahrb. i. 183) under the name of Rhynchopyle elongata. N. E. Brown transferred it to his earlier genus Piptospatha, the type of which is Piptospatha insignis, also from Borneo. In 1910 (Bot. Mag. t. 8330) he described and figured under the name of Gamogyne pulchra a very pretty Borneo Aroid obtained by me in a pool at the foot of a cascade on Mt. Gading, near Lundu, in Borneo; I find, however, that this was the exact spot on which Beccari collected the plant later described by Engler as Rhynchopyle elongata (Beccari, Nella Foresti di Borneo, p. 168), and there is no doubt that Gamogyne pulchra and Rhynchopyle elongata are the same thing. Rhynchopyle and Gamogyne seem to be generically identical, and are distinguished from Piptospatha by their truncate stamens and crowded angular ovaries, Piptospatha having a prolonged connective to the anther and separated cylindric ovaries.

The Malay Peninsula plant described by me (Materials for Flora of Malay Peninsula, iii. 35) as Piptospatha elongata, and also by Hooker (Fl. Brit. Ind. vii. 539) under Schismatoglottis elongata Engler, is certainly distinct from the Borneo plant described by Engler as Rhynchopyle elongata. It differs in the broader, thinner foliage, smaller narrower white spathe, and

truncate woolly-topped stamens.

Since writing the above Engler has published the part of the *Pflanzenreich* dealing with this genus. He retains the genus *Gamogyne* (for *G. Burbidgei* N. E. Br. only), and makes the Malay Peninsula plant a variety of *Piptospatha elongata* under the name var. *perakensis*. It is impossible to retain it as a variety of this species, so it will remain as *Rhynchopyle perakensis* Ridl.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE 527.—Aridarum montanum Ridley. 1, plant natural size; 2, end of leaf and cross-section of same; 3, spathe cut open; 4, several male flowers viewed from above; 5, three views of a male flower with accompanying pair of sterile flowers; 6, two female flowers; 7, two ovules. Figs. 2–7 enlarged.

MAIANTHEMUM BIFOLIUM SCHMIDT IN ENGLAND.

By A. BRUCE JACKSON.

These observations on the occurrence and distribution of Maianthemum in England are the outcome of a visit paid last summer to Ken (or Caen) Wood, near Hampstead, where I was much interested to find it still flourishing in its locus classicus. For the purpose of establishing its claims as a native species in the